

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13106

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN MARTIAL LAW

1. SUMMARY: DURING KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT OPENING OF WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE AUGUST 22, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED LIFTING OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BAN AND CURFEW, ELECTION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR, AND SOME SORT OF AMNESTY FOR "SUBVERSIVE" DETAINEES. END SUMMARY

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS, AS EXPECTED, MADE ANNOUNCEMENTS MODIFYING MARTIAL LAW CONDITIONS DURING HIS KEYNOTE SPEECH TO THE WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE WHICH OPENED TODAY IN MANILA. HIS OTHERWISE OCCASIONALLY DEFENSIVE AND OFTEN PHILOSOPHICAL SPEECH RATIONALIZED HIS MARTIAL LAW REGIME AND COMMENTED ON WORLD LEGAL SITUATION.

3. FOLLOWING IS MOST SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH:
BEGIN QUOTE: WE ARE MOVING IRRETRIEVABLY TOWARD NORMALCY AS WE COME CLOSER TO A SOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT AS WELL AS THE LEFTIST-RIGHTIST REBELLION AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS. I ANNOUNCE TODAY, THEREFORE, THAT THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS
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FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS NOT LATER THAN NEXT YEAR, DURING WHICH I HOPE TO INITIATE AN INQUIRY WHEN WE CAN HOLD THE OTHER ELECTIONS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE EFFECTS OF MARTIAL LAW - - MARTIAL LAW ITSELF - - WILL BE LIFTED DURING THE PERIOD OF CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION.

4. I ALSO WISH TO ANNOUNCE THAT AS OF YESTERDAY, IN CELEBRATION

OF WORLD LAW DAY, I HAVE LIFTED THE BAN ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND CURFEW. LEST I CAUSE UNDUE ALARM AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE ADVISED ME NOT TO DO SO AS YET, I HURRY TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL TEST THE EFFECTS OF THESE MOVES ON OUR ECONOMY AND OUR SITUATION IN THE MATTER OF PEACE AND ORDER.

5. FINALLY, I WISH TO ANNOUNCE THAT AS OF YESTERDAY, I HAVE ISSUED A DECREE FOR THE AMNESTY OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF SUBVERSION, WHICH AMNESTY TERMINATED LAST YEAR AND WHICH I REVIEW TO EXTEND FOR THE NEXT YEAR. IF THERE BE ANY PERSONS OR DETENTION PRISONERS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN TRIED BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND COME UNDER THIS DECREE, AS OF TODAY I ORDER THEIR RELEASE FROM DETENTION. END QUOTE

6. COMMENT: REMARK ON AMNESTY FOR DETAINEES IS PARTICULARLY

AMBIGUOUS, AND EARLY PRESS COMMENTARY IS CONFUSED AND CONFUSING. WE SUSPECT IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE LIMITED. AS WE READ STATEMENT, MARCOS IS APPARENTLY REINSTATING AN EXPIRED DECREE WHICH GAVE AMNESTY TO LOW-LEVEL REBELS WHO "VOLUNTARILY" RETURNED TO THE FOLDS OF THE LAW." THUS HE IS ORDERING RELEASE OF THOSE WHO SURRENDERED OR WERE CAUGHT AFTER DEADLINE. THE MAJOR POLITICAL SUBVERSION CASES, WE EXPECT, WILL GO ON.

7. LIKEWISE, OTHER CONCESSIONS SOUND MORE SWEEPING THAN THEY MAY TURN OUT TO BE. PNA SAYS CURFEW WILL BE LIFTED "IN SOME PARTS
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OF THE COUNTR." INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BAN MAY BE REPLACED BY LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE ALLOWED OUT, ETC. CONDUCT OF LONG PROMISED LOCAL ELECTIONS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE CIRCUMSCRIBED TO PREVENT "OLD SOCIETY ABUSES". NONETHELESS, ALL OF THESE RELAXATIONS APPEAR TO BE WELCOME STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
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